

Understanding the Times

Ethics Unit Study Guide

Christianity

1. What is ethics?
2. For Christians, what is the connection between ethics and theology?
3. Define “moral absolute.”
4. According to Francis Schaeffer, why do societies need absolutes?
5. What is the source of Christian moral absolutes?
6. Even though the Bible cannot address every situation, why is it enough for a basic moral foundation?
7. Describe a Christian’s ethical responsibilities.

Islam

8. Who is a Muslim’s moral example?
9. Describe Muhammad’s life as it relates to life and morality.
10. What motivates Muslims to behave ethically?

Secular Humanism

11. What is the ultimate ethical question for secular humanism? Why is it an issue?
12. What is the “no-truth thesis?”
13. What is moral relativism?

Marxism

14. For followers of Marx and Lenin, how is morality dictated?
15. For a Marxist, what is not crucial to humanity?
16. How do Marxists explain the arrival of “new morality?”
17. Define “old morality?”
18. For Marxists, what is the working class’ only hope?

Cosmic Humanism

19. Who defines right and wrong for cosmic humanists? Why?
20. How do cosmic humanists judge between differing standards? Why?
21. Contrast the difference between the cosmic humanist and dictionary definitions of tolerance.
22. How does cosmic humanism blur the distinction between good and evil?
23. What is cosmic humanism’s universal system of judgment? Explain.

Postmodernism

24. From where do postmodernist ethical systems *not* come?
25. Postmodernists do not like the term *relativism*. Why?
26. Explain the development of postmodern ethics.

“Responding to Relativism” videos

27. Give 2 possible motivations for moral relativism.
28. What does it mean for something to be subjective?
29. What does it mean for something to be objective?
30. What is a preference claim?
31. What is moral claim?
32. Give 2 common slogans used to reinforce the “correctness” of relativism.
33. Refute the claim, “you should be open-minded.”
34. Give 3 kinds of moral relativism found in our society.
35. List and explain the 2 types of multiculturalism.
36. List and explain 3 responses to relativism.
37. In reality, what is most of today’s tolerance?
38. Why is the *argument from evil* not the most compelling argument against the existence of God?
39. What are our three options regarding moral laws?

“Biotechnology” video

40. According to John Stonestreet, what is the most important worldview question in the 21st century?
41. Which of the “biotech age promises” is most appealing to you? Why? (This is not a test question.)
42. What is biotechnology? (Put it in your own words.)
43. What are stem cells? What are the two types? Which type has already produced scientific advances?
44. Why are stem cells promising?
45. What is bioethics?
46. What happens when you put a price tag on something that is priceless?
47. Compare/contrast human value from the views of biblical Christianity and naturalism.
48. What’s the best way to live in a biotech age?
49. The “public” thinks it is educated. Why is this not true? How can Christians be part of an educated public?